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**Ford**

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(54) **MECHANICAL BROADHEAD**

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**F42B 12/34** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC .. **F42B 12/34** (2013.01); **F42B 6/08** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... F42B 6/08  
See application file for complete search history.

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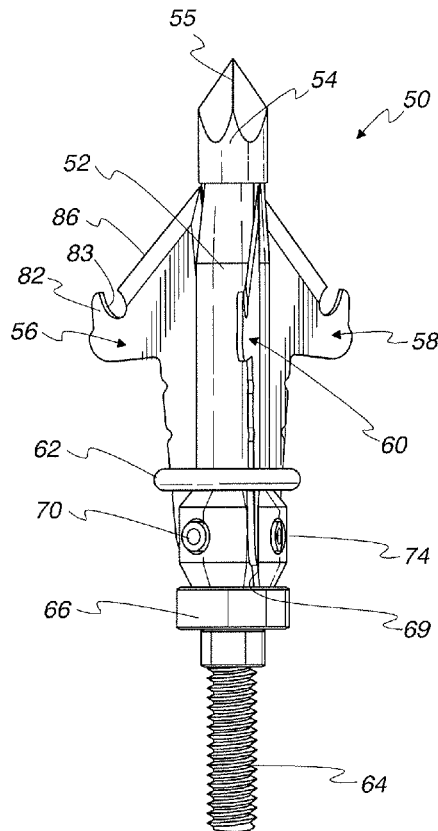
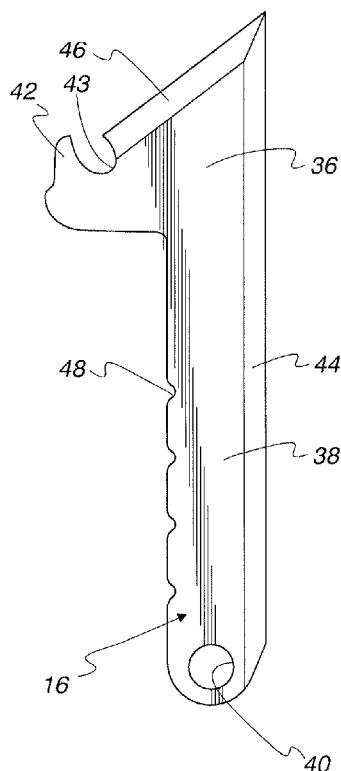
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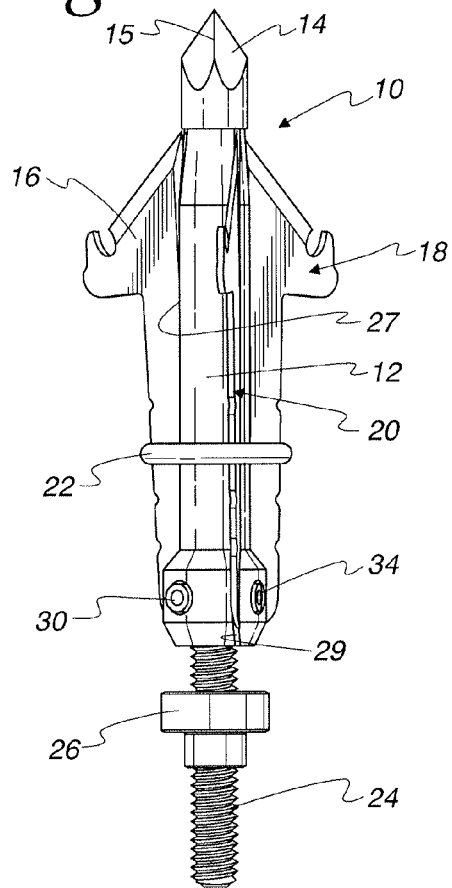
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A mechanical broadhead has an elongated body and a plurality of cutting blades pivotably mounted to the elongated body. The cutting blades, when in a folded position, nest in longitudinally extending slots in the elongated body, but assume an extended position when the broadhead enters a target.

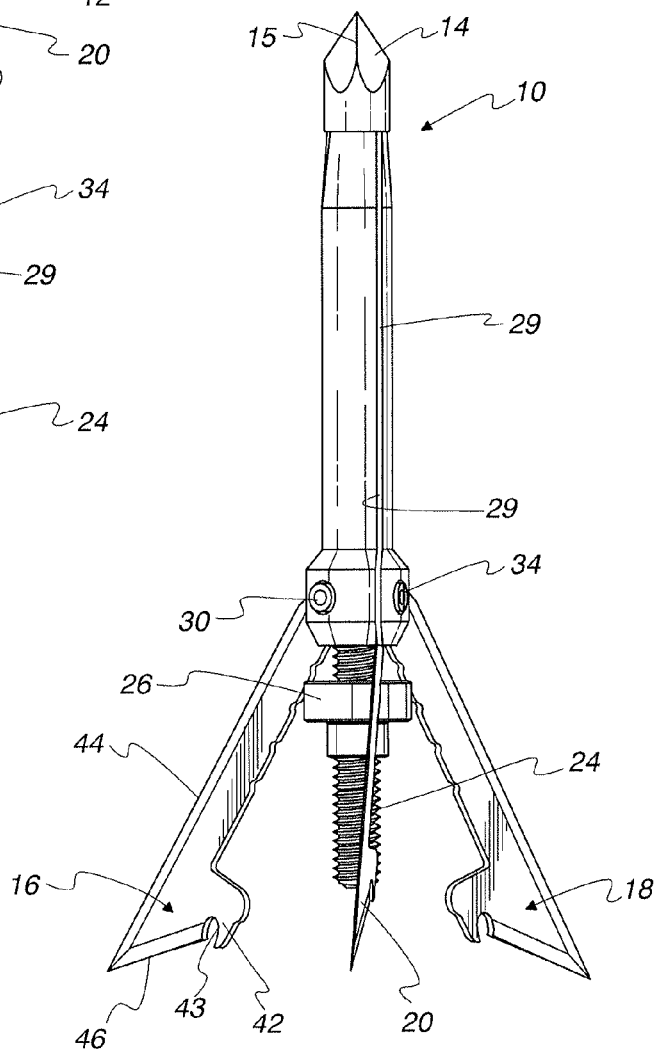
**19 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**



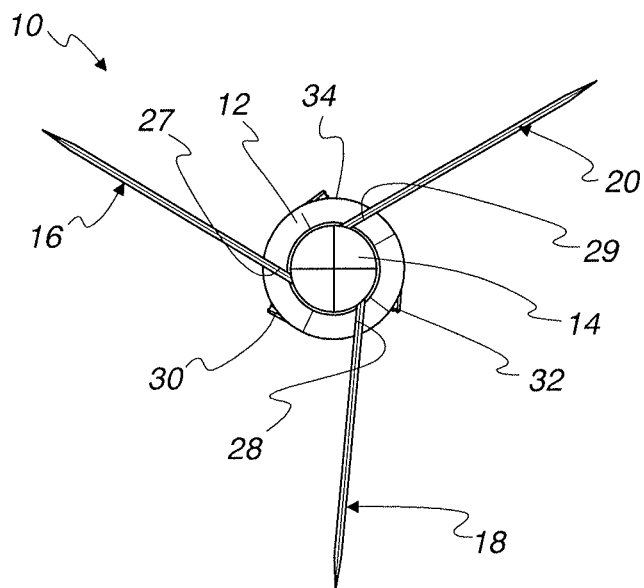
*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*

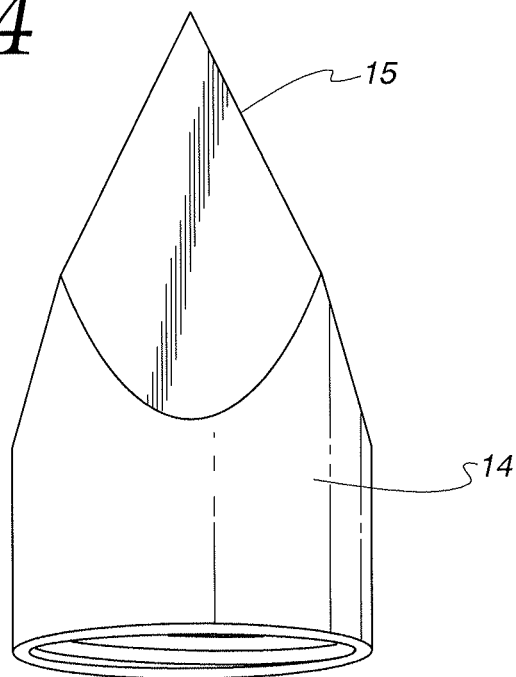


Fig. 5

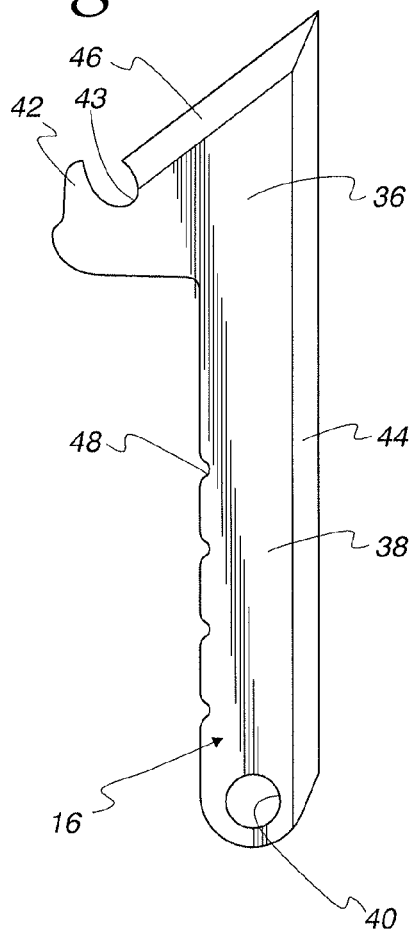


Fig. 6

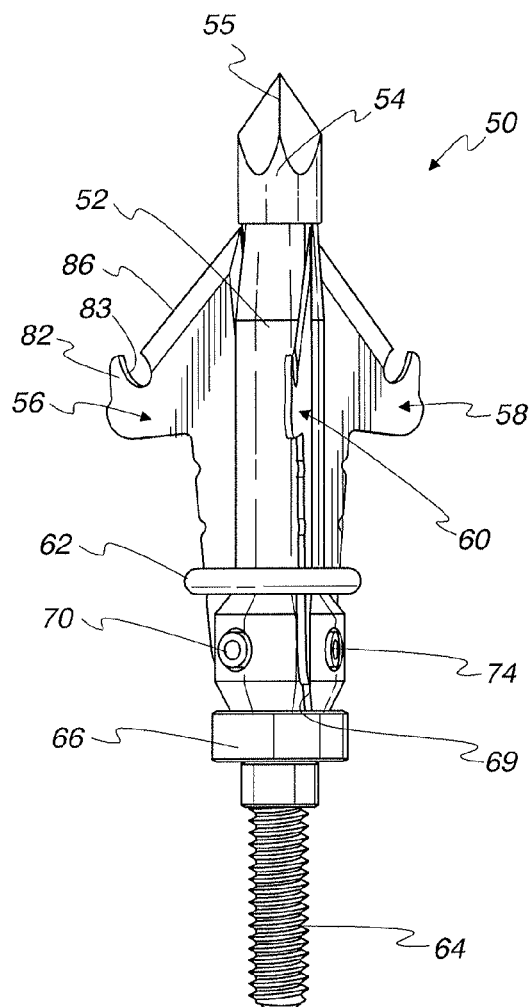


Fig. 7

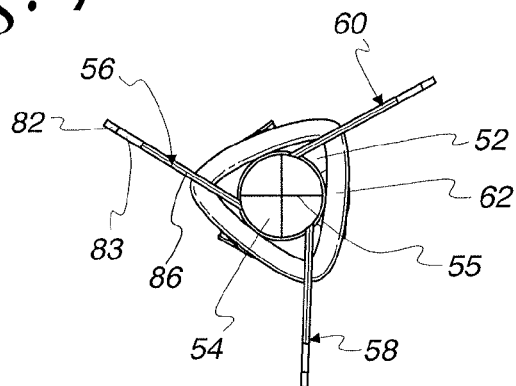
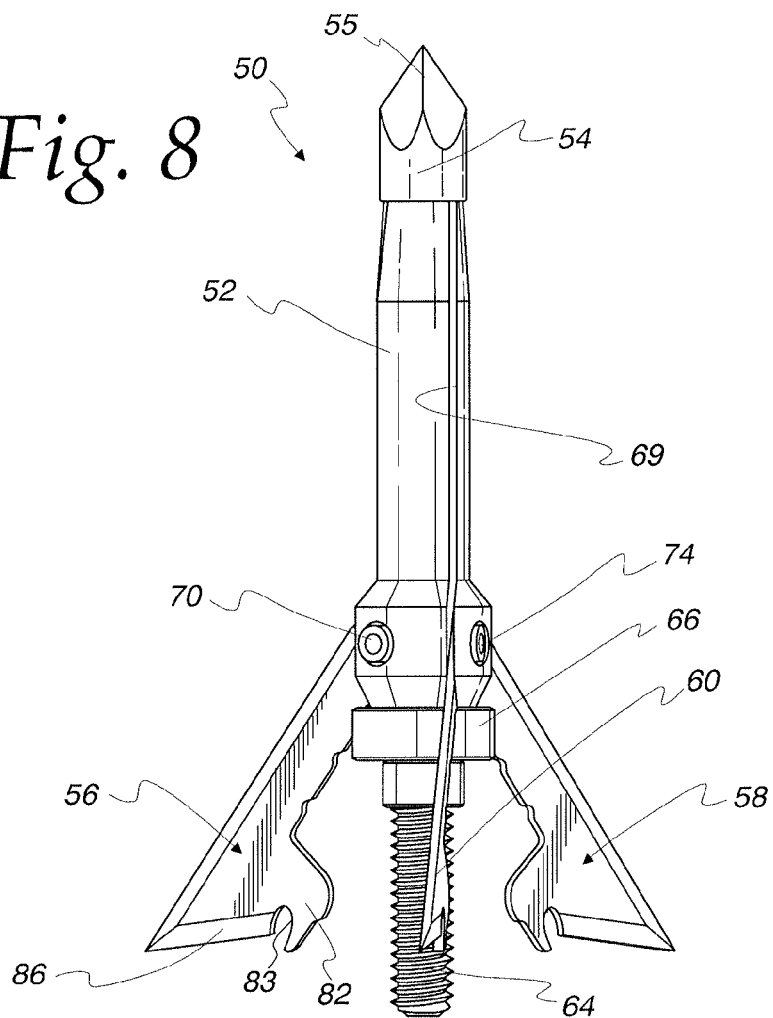
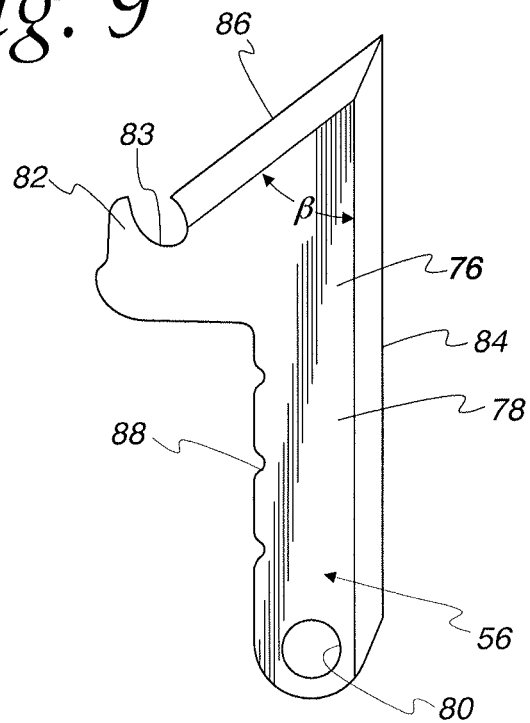


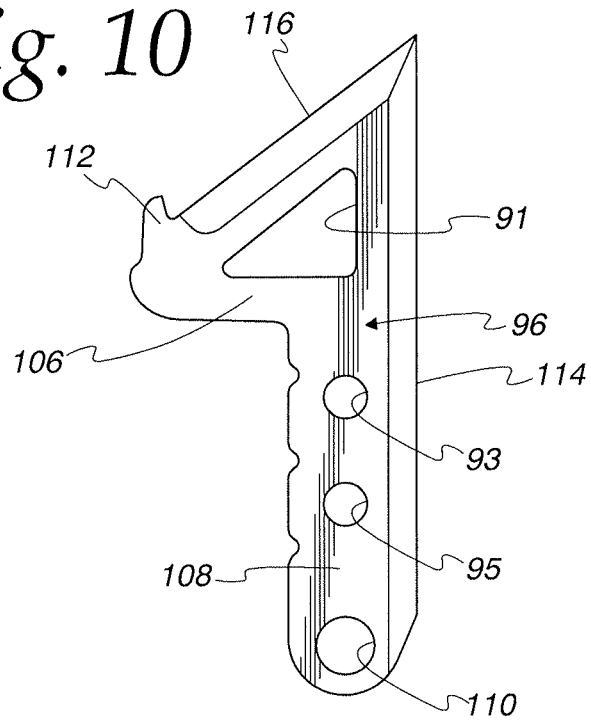
Fig. 8



*Fig. 9*



*Fig. 10*



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**MECHANICAL BROADHEAD****FIELD OF INVENTION**

This invention relates to an arrowhead, and more particularly to a mechanical broadhead suitable for hunting game.

**BACKGROUND OF INVENTION**

One type of arrowhead used for hunting is a broadhead. This type of arrowhead has good penetrating power and creates a relatively large entry wound. To that end, a mechanical broadhead utilizes pivotable blades that extend laterally as the broadhead penetrates the intended target. For the hunter's arrow to be effective, however, the arrow in flight must travel a substantially straight path to the target.

Bows and crossbows that are commercially available impart different speeds to arrows. The inertia of the arrow leaving a very fast bow can cause mechanical broadheads to deploy cutting blades prematurely, thereby undesirably increasing blade profile and causing the arrow to veer off the intended flight path, or creating sufficient drag so as to reduce efficacy at impact. Also, at times the cutting blades on a mechanical broadhead may not deploy fully at impact, thereby decreasing the kill efficacy of the arrow.

The present invention obviates, or at least minimizes the aforementioned drawbacks by enhancing the broadhead's flight characteristics as well as kill efficacy.

**SUMMARY OF INVENTION**

A mechanical broadhead for use with an arrow, and providing a positive, controlled deployment of cutting blades, includes an elongated body having a leading end and a trailing end, provided with a faceted pointed tip, and defining a plurality of longitudinally extending slots substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the elongated body but offset from the longitudinal axis. The elongated body at its trailing or proximal end terminates in a threaded rod for connection to the shaft of an arrow. An internally threaded ferrule can be provided on the threaded rod for selecting a desired cutting profile by adjusting the pivot arc of the cutting blades upon deployment.

A plurality of independently deployable cutting blades is pivotably mounted to the elongated body portion. Preferably, three independently deployable cutting blades are provided. Each blade has a minor cutting edge, a major cutting edge, and a grab hook spaced from the distal end of the minor cutting edge. The major cutting edge is received within the longitudinally extending slot in the body portion when the blade is in a folded position while the minor cutting edge remains exposed. In this manner the blade profile is minimized during flight.

The major cutting edge-to-minor cutting length ratio is in the range of about 2 to about 4. Each cutting blade is configured so that each major cutting edge and its associated minor cutting edge define therebetween an acute angle. Preferably the acute angle is in the range of about 30 degrees to 60 degrees, more preferably about 45 degrees.

An elastomeric retainer holds the cutting blades in a retracted or folded position while the arrow is in flight but releases the cutting blades to an extended position as the arrow hits the target and penetrates. The elastomeric retainer allows adjustment of preload deployment tension to match the speed of the arrow.

The individual blades have a pointed, sharp-edged configuration comprising a deltoid head portion and a unitary stem

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portion extending therefrom. The stem portion defines a pivot pin aperture at its extremity. The cutting blades are individually mounted and independently deployable, thereby facilitating replacement when damaged.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

In the drawings,

FIG. 1 is a side view of a mechanical broadhead embodying the present invention and showing cutting blades in a folded position;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the mechanical broadhead of FIG. 1 but showing cutting blades in an extended position;

FIG. 3 is an end view of the mechanical broadhead of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a side view of a removable, faceted tip of a mechanical broadhead embodying the present invention and provided with a plurality of cutting edges;

FIG. 5 is a side view of a cutting blade in the mechanical broadhead shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a side view of another mechanical broadhead embodying the present invention and showing cutting blades in a folded position;

FIG. 7 is a front view of the mechanical broadhead of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a side view of the mechanical broadhead shown in FIG. 6 but showing cutting blades in an extended position;

FIG. 9 is a side view of a cutting blade in the mechanical broadhead shown in FIG. 6; and

FIG. 10 is a side view of an alternate cutting blade suitable for the mechanical broadhead of FIG. 6.

**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, mechanical broadhead 10 comprises elongated body 12 provided with removable, faceted penetrating tip 14 with tip cutting edges such as edge 15. Penetrating tip 14 is threadedly mounted to elongated body 12 at the leading end thereof. Cutting blades 16, 18 and 20 are pivotably mounted to elongated body 12 by respective pivot pins 30, 32 and 34. In FIG. 1 cutting blades 16, 18 and 20 are shown in a folded position, received in longitudinally extending slots in elongated body 12 such as slot 29 for cutting blade 20 and held in place by an elastomeric retainer such as o-ring 22.

FIG. 2 shows cutting blades 16, 18 and 20 in an extended position. As a broadhead-carrying arrow is released from a bow or crossbow, and during the flight of the arrow, cutting blades 16, 18 and 20 remain in the folded position until broadhead 10 strikes a target. As penetrating tip 14 enters the target, cutting blades 16, 18 and 20 are pivoted from the folded position of FIG. 1 to an extended position shown in FIG. 2 as will be described in greater detail below. The cutting profile of the broadhead can be adjusted by adjusting blade pivot arc. The range of pivot arc traveled by the cutting blades is adjustable, and is determined by the position of ferrule 26 on threaded rod 24 that extends rearwardly from elongated body 12. The particular pivot arc utilized is dependent on the desired cutting diameter. Preferably the pivot arc is in the range of about 110 degrees to about 160 degrees, preferably about 135 degrees.

Deployment of cutting blades 16, 18 and 20 is further illustrated in FIG. 3. The cutting blades 16, 18 and 20 are deployed outwardly from respective longitudinally extending slots 27, 28 and 29 which are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of elongated body 12 but are offset from that

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axis. An enlarged perspective view of faceted tip **14** having tip cutting edges **15** is shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 5 illustrates a typical cutting blade **16** for mechanical broadhead **10**. A plurality of cutting blades, such as that shown in FIG. 5, carried by broadhead **10** are situated symmetrically relative to and about the longitudinal axis of elongated body **12**. At least two, and preferably three, independently deployable cutting blades are pivotably mounted to elongated body **12**.

Cutting blade **16** has a pointed, sharp-edged configuration, a leading, deltoid head portion **36** and a unitary stem portion **38** that extends rearwardly from the head portion. Stem portion **38** defines pivot pin aperture **40** at its extremity, i.e., at the distal end portion of stem portion **38**. Major cutting edge **44** extends substantially along the entire length of cutting blade **16**. An additional, minor cutting edge **46** is provided in head portion **36**. Major cutting edge **44** and minor cutting edge **46** intersect and together define an included acute angle alpha ( $\alpha$ ), preferably in the range of about 30 degrees to about 60 degrees, more preferably about 45 degrees.

Grab hook **42** unitary with head portion **36** is provided outboard of and spaced from minor cutting edge **46** by recess or cut-out **43** in head portion **36** of cutting blade **16**. Preferably, grab hook **42** projects or extends forwardly from minor cutting edge **46**. Grab hook **42** enhances positive deployment of cutting blade **16** from the folded position to the extended position by grabbing the skin or hide of the target animal upon entry of the cutting blade.

Stem portion **38** also defines a series of notches such as a notch **48** on the side of stem portion **38** opposite major cutting edge **44**. An elastomeric retainer such as o-ring **22** (FIG. 1) selectively engages such notches to provide a desired consistent retaining force or tension on the cutting blades while the broadhead-carrying arrow is in flight toward a target and also precludes premature deployment of the cutting blades.

Another broadhead embodying the present invention is shown in FIGS. 6, 7 and 8. In this particular embodiment the overall arrangement of parts is the same as that for mechanical broadhead **10**, but the body portion as well as the pivotable cutting blades mounted thereto are relatively shorter than the corresponding parts for broadhead **10**. In particular, as shown in FIGS. 5, 6 and 7, cutting blades **56**, **58** and **60** of broadhead **50** are pivotably mounted to elongated body **52** by pins such as pivot pins **70** and **74** and are held in a folded position by o-ring **62** or the like. Longitudinally extending slots, such as slot **69** for cutting blade **60**, are provided for each of the cutting blades and are offset from the longitudinal axis of body **52** in same manner as slots **27**, **28** and **29** discussed hereinabove. Threaded rod **64** extends from body portion **52** from the end thereof opposite to penetrating tip **54** and is adapted to be threadedly received into the shaft of an arrow. Threaded rod **64** also carries an internally threaded ferrule **66** that is positioned along rod **64** and serves to limit the pivot arc for the pivotably mounted cutting blades. Ferrule **66** can engage a notch on the back side of the cutting blades as can be seen in FIG. 8 when cutting blades **56** and **58** are in the extended position.

Features of the cutting blades for the embodiment shown in FIGS. 6, 7 and 8 are illustrated in FIG. 9 which shows cutting blade **56** having a deltoid head portion **76** unitary with stem **78**.

Minor cutting edge **86** and major cutting edge **84** on cutting blade **56** intersect and together define an acute angle beta ( $\beta$ ) which can be the same as, or different from the acute angle  $\alpha$  for cutting blade **16** discussed hereinabove. Major cutting edge **84** extends along substantially the entire longitudinal dimension of cutting blade **56**. Grab hook **82** is situated at the

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distal end of minor cutting edge **86** and is spaced therefrom by about two thickness dimensions of the cutting blade by recess **83** in cutting blade **56**. The margin of cutting blade **56** opposite to major cutting edge **84** is provided with three notches such as notch sized to receive o-ring **62** (FIGS. 6 and 7) or the like elastomeric retainer. Pivot pin aperture **80** is provided at the distal end portion of stem portion **78**.

An alternate cutting blade for broadhead **50** is depicted in FIG. 10. Cutting blade **96** has a pointed, sharp-edged configuration similar to that of cutting blade **56** (FIG. 9), has a head portion **106** and a unitary stem portion **108**, but in addition is provided with cut-out **91** in head portion **106** and with cut-outs **93** and **95** in stem portion **108** to minimize the weight of cutting blade **96**. Pivot pin aperture **110** is sized to receive a pivot pin for pivotable mounting to the body of a mechanical broadhead. Major cutting edge **114** along one side of the cutting blade **96** intersects with minor cutting edge **116** in head portion **106** and together with minor cutting edge **116** forms an acute angle. Grab hook **112** is provided at the distal end of minor cutting edge **116** adjacent thereto and performs the same function as grab hooks **42** and **82** on cutting blades **16** and **56**, respectively.

The foregoing description and the drawings are illustrative of the present invention. Still other variants and rearrangements of parts are possible and will readily present themselves to those skilled in the art.

The invention claimed is:

1. A mechanical broadhead for an arrow shaft comprising an elongated body having a leading end and a trailing end, terminating in a threaded rod at the trailing end and defining a plurality of longitudinally extending slots substantially parallel to longitudinal axis of the elongated body but offset therefrom; a faceted penetrating tip mounted to the elongated body at the leading end; a cutting blade pivotably mounted to the elongated body in each said longitudinally extending slot and pivotable from a folded position to an extended position; an elastomeric retainer engaging each cutting blade and urging the cutting blade into the longitudinally extending slot; and having a ferrule threadedly received on the threaded rod and defining a pivot arc limit for the cutting blade;
2. each cutting blade having a minor cutting edge, a major cutting edge, and a grab hook at the distal end of the minor cutting edge; the major cutting edge being received within the longitudinally extending slot when the cutting blade is in the folded position and the minor cutting edge together with the major cutting edge defining an acute angle therebetween.
3. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 1 wherein the acute angle is about 45 degrees.
4. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 1 wherein each cutting blade is provided with at least one notch adapted to receive the elastomeric retainer.
5. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 1 wherein each cutting blade is provided with a plurality of spaced notches adapted to receive the elastomeric retainer.
6. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 1 wherein the elastomeric retainer is an o-ring.
7. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 1 wherein three cutting blades uniformly spaced from one another are pivotably mounted to the elongated body.
8. A mechanical broadhead for an arrow shaft comprising an elongated body having a leading end and a trailing end, terminating in a threaded rod at the trailing end and defining a plurality of longitudinally extending slots

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substantially parallel to longitudinal axis of the elongated body but offset therefrom;  
 a faceted penetrating tip mounted to the elongated body at the leading end;  
 a cutting blade pivotably mounted to the elongated body in each said longitudinally extending slot and pivotable from a folded position to an extended position; and  
 an elastomeric retainer engaging each cutting blade and urging the cutting blade into the longitudinally extending slot;  
 each cutting blade having a minor cutting edge, a major cutting edge, and a grab hook at the distal end of the minor cutting edge; the major cutting edge being received within the longitudinally extending slot when the cutting blade is in the folded position and the minor cutting edge together with the major cutting edge defining an acute angle therebetween and wherein each said cutting blade has a pointed, sharp-edged configuration and comprises a deltoid head portion and a stem portion unitary with the head portion.

8. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 7 wherein cutting blade length ratio of major cutting edge-to-minor cutting edge is in the range of about 2 to about 4.

9. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 7 wherein the grab hook projects beyond the minor cutting edge.

10. A mechanical broadhead for an arrow shaft comprising an elongated body having a leading end and a trailing end, terminating in a threaded rod at the trailing end and defining a plurality of longitudinally extending slots substantially parallel to longitudinal axis of the elongated body but offset therefrom;  
 a faceted penetrating tip mounted to the elongated body at the leading end;  
 a cutting blade pivotably mounted to the elongated body in each said longitudinally extending slot and pivotable from a folded position to an extended position; and

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an elastomeric retainer engaging each cutting blade and urging the cutting blade into the longitudinally extending slot;  
 each cutting blade having a minor cutting edge, a major cutting edge, and a grab hook at the distal end of the minor cutting edge; the major cutting edge being received within the longitudinally extending slot when the cutting blade is in the folded position and the minor cutting edge together with the major cutting edge defining an acute angle therebetween and wherein each said cutting blade defines a recess between the grab hook and the minor cutting edge.

11. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein the cutting blade is pivotable in an arc of about 110 degrees to about 160 degrees.

12. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein the cutting blade is pivotable in an arc of about 135 degrees.

13. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein cutting blade length ratio of major cutting edge-to-minor cutting edge is in the range of about 2 to about 4.

14. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein each said cutting blade has a pointed, sharp edged configuration and comprises a deltoid head portion and a stem portion unitary with the head portion.

15. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein three cutting blades uniformly spaced from one another are pivotably mounted to the elongated body.

16. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein the acute angle is about 45 degrees.

17. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein the cutting blade is provided with at least one notch adapted to receive the elastomeric retainer.

18. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 17 wherein the cutting blade is provided with a plurality of spaced notches adapted to receive the elastomeric retainer.

19. The mechanical broadhead in accordance with claim 10 wherein the elastomeric retainer is an o-ring.

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